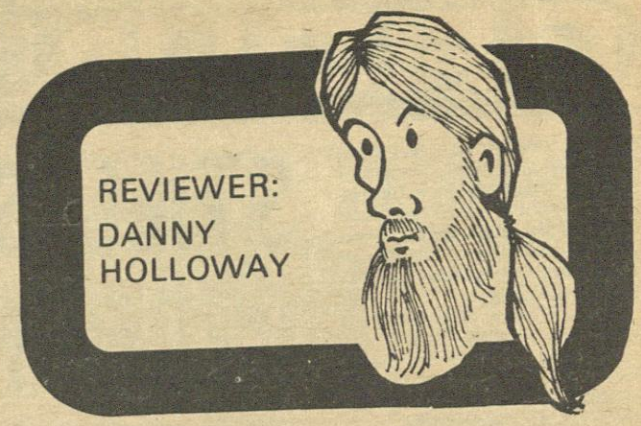
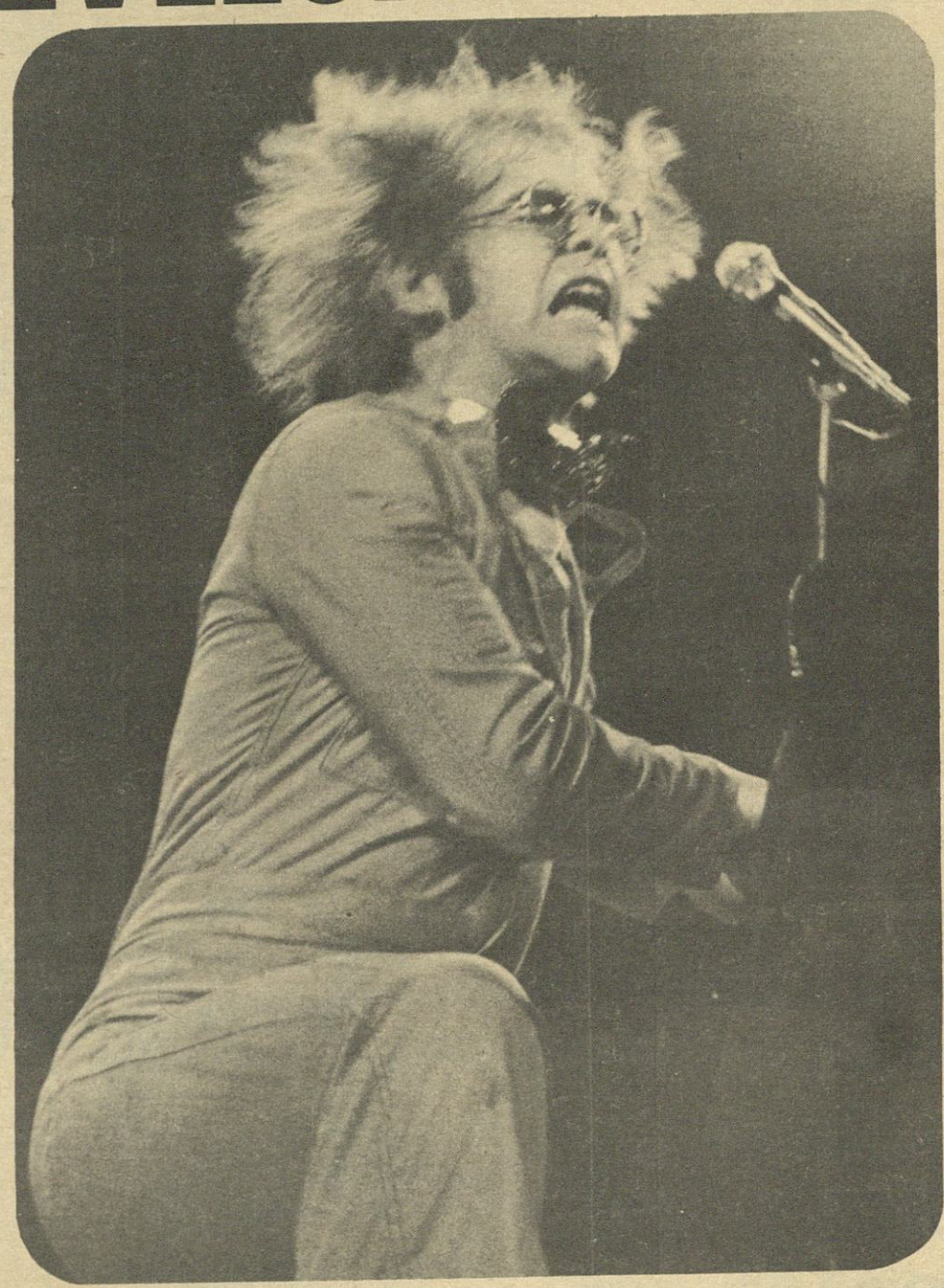
Singles

AMAZING ELTON HASN'T DEVELOPED ENOUGH





ELTON JOHN "Rocket Man (I Think It's Going To Be A Long, Long Time)" (DJM). "Rocket Man" is a beautifully packaged maxi-single on which the sleeve folds out and is carefully designed to resemble a small LP. The main track is taken from his upcoming "Honkey Chateau" extravaganza and is the first record featuring new guitarist Davey Johnstone.

If I had never heard of Elton John before, I would think he was amazing. But unfortunately, he hasn't developed enough for my tastes. Like John Peel hates to hear me say, his fans are obviously going to dig it. "Holiday Inn" and "Goodbye" from "Madman" are located on the B.

PERCY SLEDGE "Rainbow Road" (Atlantic). *Percy's "When A Man Loves A Woman" has found itself placed in my Hall of Fame, and he proves on this one that his voice and talents are not that of a one-hit wonder. He convincingly expresses the pain of a man who went from a "Rainbow Road" to carrying a ball and chain. Nice arrangement and treatment.*

MALO "Sauvecito" (Warners). *This is Jorge Santana's band (brother of Carlos) who are doing well in the States at present. The Latin American rhythms are there, but Jorge accents the sound with brass as well. This is a soft rock love song given good treatment with some nice electric piano.*

HOT TUNA "Keep On Truckin' " (RCA). *This is a 12 bar with a jog band-ish feel about it with some nice fiddle thrown in by Papa John Creach. Jorma sings and picks acoustic guitar as well as tossing in a few wah-wah licks. It's a good choice for a single from their current "Burgers" album.*

NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND "Jambalaya (On The Bayou)" (UA). *Originally a good time band, they've broadened their scope to rock and country influences. Jeff Hanna sings this Hank Williams classic with a distinct c-and-w feel and there's some nice guitar as well. The group are from Long Beach and the song's a winner — so what's to stop them?*

RICHIE HAVENS "What About Me" (Polydor). *The song has the Haven's looseness and the song is really a good one. The words are of the situation of the world type of thing, but the chord changes are really nice. Especially on the chorus where the intensity becomes apparent by the light sprinkling of strings.*

MELLOW CANDLE "Dan The Wing" (Deram). *This Irish group shows some promise on this with their electrified traditional folk. The girl vocalist has a distinctive voice and the arrangement is rather clever albeit too complicated.*

CRAZY HORSE "All Alone Now" (Reprise). *A George Whitsell song from their album "Loose" which has the unbroken chord strumming technique that Neil Young often uses. The song is not outstanding but the sound and feel are nice. Very summery feeling.*

JONATHAN SWIFT "Corrina" (CBS). *This is the traditional song that Taj Mahal had such a beautiful version of. Jonathan treats it different, naturally, but maintains that motivation which made the song so cheery in the first place. His voice and treatment are more commercial and deserve a bit of de ol' ratio play. Yeah.*

MIDNIGHT MOVERS "Why Don't We Do It In The Road" (Mojo). *The Wicked Pickett's back-up group works out on the Lennon/McCartney ditty about Portobello. The version is long (both sides), repetitive and slightly irritating. A chick nicely sings one of the verses and there's also some guitar of interest brewing in there somewhere.*

MIKE McGEAR "Woman" (Island). *A haunting, soft mood piece with some essential piano from the likes of Zoot Money. The string section from Centipede adds to the awesome flavour. "Woman" is the title cut from Mike's new album, but songs like this usually lack a wide enough appeal for a hit record.*

CARL DAWKINS "My Whole World" (Duke). *Reggae artists rarely come up with decent songs since they depend so strongly on spontaneity on their recordings. This is a very decent song performed quite simply with some effective, soulful vocals from Carl.*

LUCIFER "Fuck You" (label unknown). *I was expecting an entertaining comedy song, but instead there's this trivial piece of boring rubbish circulating on my turntable. It's heavy and sensational and isn't a record you'd buy for mom on Mother's Day. Oh well, I can always use it as a flying saucer.*

SONNY AND CHER "A Cowboy's Work Is Never Done" (MCA). *If Sonny and Cher ever had any talent, it's now either gone or been re-channeled into their current profitable cabaret formula. This release has a mid Eastern feel to it with a big band backing. They're bound to be with us forever. By why?*

BLOODSTONE "Judy Judy" (Decca). *This is a fairly catchy commercial offering from this black American outfit who accompany themselves as well. Wah-wah guitar and some pretty nice vocal work make this one a possible chart contender.*

QUIVER "Green Tree" (Warners). *A low keyed effort performed acousticly with the exception of an electric bass. The song is interesting but not earth-shattering. The B side moves with some nice country licks from Tim Renwick.*

JOHNNIE TAYLOR "Standing In For Jody" (Stax). *A slow-ish ad-lib work out with a chorus and horn section that bends 'round his voice. The A side is repetitive, but the "Shackin' Up" on the B is a funky up-tempo rocker.*

PHYLLIS DILLON "Midnight Confession" (Treasure Isle). *A reggae version of the Grass Roots' hit from a while back is re-vitalised. The backing is typically simple and Phyllis' lack of familiarisation with the original has added another dimension in the way of an original treatment.*

BRENDA LEE "Everybody's Reaching Out For Someone" (MCA). *We've lost one of the only truly expressive female rock vocalists to the c-and-w field. Her voice has lost the edge and bite she had in her heyday, but the wry soulfulness is still there Bring back "Sweet Nothin's".*

JERRY LEE LEWIS "Chantilly Lace" (Mercury). *Jerry's back and rockin' just like in the good old days. His sweeping piano style and narrative style of singing has been revived on the Big Bopper's rock gem. It's interesting from the point of view that the original was a sort of parody of Jerry Lee's style.*

SHA NA NA "Rock and Roll Is Here To Stay" (Kama Sutra). *Sha Na Na re-activates five great rock songs on this maxi. The titles alone should give you an indication to what's happening: "Rock And Roll Is Here To Stay", "Duke Of Earl", "Great Balls Of Fire", "Gonna Rock Tonite" and Little Richard's "Keep A Knockin' ". Resurrected with feeling and admiration for the originals.*

EDDIE COCHRAN "Somethin' Else" (UA). *One of rock's greatest songs still moves like it was meant to. Co-written by Eddie and his then-girlfriend Sharon Sheeley. He gets the car and the girl in the end.*